



NEWSLETTER 4 - 10th November 2023

'Let your light shine '

www.derryhillschool.co.uk

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back to what is one of the most exciting times of the school year. The lead up to Christmas in school is such a special time and we look forward to sharing memories with you all through the events we have planned. It was so lovely to see so many parents in school last term and we hope to continue to offer opportunities to work together to support our children and families. We continue to think of some of our families who are going through challenging times at present and I am sure you will join me in sending prayers to those who need it.

Just a little update on staffing this week: We are very fortunate to be able to share with you that Mrs South will be continuing her contract and working with Rabbit Class for the remainder for the academic year – thank you Mrs South for your commitment in ensuring consistency for the children in Rabbit Class. Sadly Mrs Garrick will be leaving Dormouse Class on Friday next week – we wish her lots of luck on her next venture. We have secured a temporary teaching assistant to fill the role whilst we carry out the recruitment process.

Enjoy the weekend

Mrs Roberts

Diary Dates

Monday 13th November - Anti-Bulling Week

Tuesday 14th November - Scholastic Book Fair 3.15pm - 3.35pm (Library)

Wednesday 15th November - Scholastic Book Fair 3.15pm - 3.35pm (Library)

Thursday 16th November - Hedgehog Class Pirate Sharing Afternoon for Parents 1.30pm till 3.15pm

Thursday 16th November - Scholastic Book Fair 3.15pm - 3.35pm (Library)

Friday 17th November - Children in Need - Great Spotacular

Monday 20th November - Scholastic Book Fair 3.15pm - 3.35pm (Library)

Thursday 23rd November - Meet The SENCO (Hall) 9am

Friday 1st December - FoDHS Christmas Bonanza 5pm till 7pm

Thursday 7th December - Whole School Pantomime Trip

Monday 11th December – KS1 Nativity Rehearsal

Tuesday 12th December - KS1 Nativity to Parents 1.30pm (Hall)

Wednesday 13th December - KS1 Nativity to Parents 9.30am (Hall)

Thursday 14th December - Christmas Jumper & Dinner day

Monday 18th December - KS2 Christmas Party pm

Tuesday 19th December - KS1 Christmas Party pm

Wednesday 20th December - KS2 Carol Service 9am

Wednesday 20th December - 2.10pm End of Term 2



School Start Time

Just a little reminder for you that from September our school day runs from 8.45 to 3.15. The school bell will continue be rung at 8.45 am. Once the children have entered, the door will be closed and any children arriving after **8.45am** will need to be signed in as late on the electronic system in the school entrance. All children apart from Dormouse Class will line up on the front playground – if you have children in Dormouse Class and an older child in school we recommend waiting on the front playground until 8.45am and then taking your youngest child to Dormouse Class.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Roberts

Message from FODHS

Congratulations to Ffion who has very kindly offered to support FODHS this year as co-chair! We are still on look out for a new chair /co chair.

A reminder that we are now putting a call out for volunteers for our School Christmas Bonanza. If you could offer any of your time that evening it would be greatly appreciated. The stalls will run from 5pm till 7pm. If you would like to help out then please could you email admin@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk to let them know you are available to help.

We thank you all for your ongoing support and look forward to all of the exciting events that we have coming up.

Travelling Book Fair

Dear Parents,

We are excited to announce that the Scholastic Travelling Book Fair will be visiting Derry Hill School from 14th - 20th **November**.

All children will have an opportunity to visit the Book Fair with their class during the week and it will be open for parents and children to visit between 3.15pm and 3.35pm on:

- ♦ Tuesday
- ♦ Wednesday
- ♦ Thursday
- ♦ Monday

There are over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from and with prices starting from **only £2.99**, there is sure to be a book for everyone.

Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25. Go to www.travellingbooks.co.uk/gift-vouchers to buy vouchers.

Don't forget that every book you buy can help to get **FREE BOOKS** for our school library!

In the week before our book fair, the school will be running a 'Design a Book Cover' competition where there are five £5 vouchers to be won and spent at the fair. Your child/ren will bring home their entry form on Tuesday 7th November, entries will be judged, and prizes awarded on Tuesday 14th.

We look forward to welcoming you to the book fair.



Whole School Pantomime Trip – Thursday 7th December

This year's whole school trip to the panto is to see Snow White at the Wyvern Theatre in Swindon. Friends (FODHS) have agreed to pay for this year's coaches again which is fantastic and helps us to keep the price of the trip to £16 per child. Payment has been set up on Parentmail, if you can't see the payment due when you check your basket please click on shop, you should now see the payment.

Please complete payment by **11th November 2023**.

If your child can't attend then please e-mail admin@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk to advise.

It's always a fun trip for the children! If you can help with this year's trip then please email Tracey Davis at:

finance@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk



Meet the SENCO

We would like to invite parents to an information session with Mrs Asfaw, our SENCO on Thursday 23rd November at 9am. In this session, Mrs Asfaw will talk through the different types of Special Educational Needs that we support here at Derry Hill and how we support them, what you can do if you are concerned about your child's learning or other additional needs and support for special needs that is available within Wiltshire. Parents will also have the opportunity to highlight particular areas of SEN that they would like to investigate in future sessions.

Changes To Summer Year 6 Induction at Sheldon School 2024

This summer our new Year 7 induction will be across three days. These will take place on **Thursday 11th, Friday 12th and Monday 15th July 2024**. This will give our new Year 7 two days of induction when the school is empty and one day of induction (Monday 15th July) with the whole school. This will involve one full day with their tutor and two days of lessons. Pupils will then return to their primary schools on **Tuesday 16th July 2024**. This will enable primary pupils to partake in leaving activities at the end of term which has been an issue for some primary schools.



Children In Need

All children are invited to come into school in their spottiest outfit on **Friday 17th November** to help raise funds for Children In Need. We would be grateful if you could support this important charity by providing a voluntary donation of £1 for the non-uniform day. This will be available to pay on Parentmail and all money raised will go to Children in Need.

If you would like to donate more, you can by typing in a different amount.

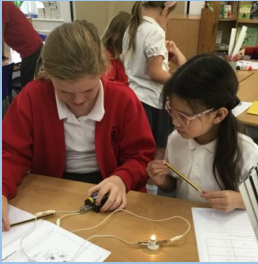
Thank you for your support



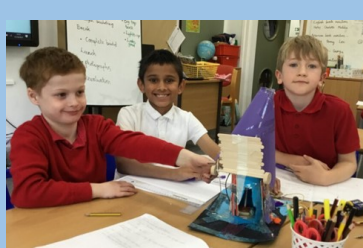
Rabbit Class

Rabbit class have made a great start to the term and our new topic all about water. We are looking forward to creating models of the water cycle and have already learned lots of new vocabulary.

Last term we really enjoyed learning about electricity! We loved exploring the equipment, carrying out investigations and finding the answers to scientific questions. We learned all about electrical insulators and conductors and we became experts at creating electrical circuits.



We were then able to use these to light up our circus big tops that we designed and then made. I think you'll agree that they look spectacular.



Continuing our work on the circus, we became engrossed in the story of The Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo and wrote incredible persuasive letters from the point of view of the main character. I think we would all like to have a pet lion like him. We enjoyed the story so much that we are excited to read more books by the same author.

"I thought The Butterfly Lion was brilliant because I love animals and the lion was cute" – Georgia Y4

"I liked the story because it had lots of adventure in it." – William M. Y4

"The Butterfly Lion was great because it was set on a farm and in World War 1" – Edward S. Y4

Our current focus Christian Value is: Compassion

This half term our focus Christian Value is the value of Compassion. As we've begun this new term, we've already been able to think about what Compassion means and how we can show compassion to others. We have learnt about how we can notice the needs of others and put on the right attitude ensuring that we are showing compassion. Please find attached the Compassion newsletter which will help you to explore our terms Christian Value more at home and will help you have fun together as you think about our value of Compassion.



Christmas Lunch– Thursday 14th December

It's nearly that time of year again !

Please could you order your child/ren's Christmas lunch for Thursday 14th December.

Orders for children need to be placed by the end of November, children not having the Christmas school dinner can bring a Christmas themed packed lunch.

Thanks

Dolce

Hedgehog Class Pirate Day

Calling all Hedgehog Parents and Carers

You are invited to join our class on the afternoon of Thursday 16th November 2023 between 1:45-3:15 to celebrate all things Pirate. On this day, the children in Hedgehog Class are welcome to come to school in Pirate fancy dress. Parents are welcome to dress up too! Please note that because we will be encouraging grown-ups to participate in the afternoon activities, it would be preferable if possible to leave any other little ones at home.

We are very much looking forward to sharing our learning with you next week!

Kind regards

Hedgehog Class



Anti - Bulling Week - Monday 13th - Friday 17th November 2023

Next week is National ANTI-BULLYING WEEK.

As always at Derry Hill, we will be promoting diversity and kindness and we invite everyone to wear odd socks on Wednesday 15th November to celebrate what makes us all unique. The theme of the week this year is “Make a Noise about Bullying” and we hope to empower all our young people to speak up about bullying.



Jolly Jam Jars Needed– Message from FoDHS

Let your imagination and creativity go wild – fill and decorate used glass jam jars to donate to the ‘Jolly Jam Jar’ stall at the Christmas Bonanza.

The jars will be sold for between 50p and £2 depending on the size, with all money raised going to school funds.

Jars can be filled with anything you like – sweets, bouncy balls, hair clips, stickers (no nuts please) get creative and decorate them too, see the image below for some ideas!

Please bring your completed jam jars into school by **Monday 27th November** – many thanks!

